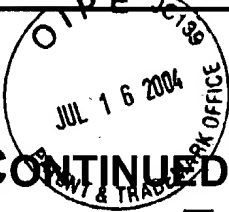


RCE/2613
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PTO/SB/30 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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<div style="text-align: center;">  <h2 style="margin: 0;">REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).</p> </div>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Application Number</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">09/708,623</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Filing Date</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">November 9, 2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">First Named Inventor</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">OSAMU ITOKAWA</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Group Art Unit</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">2613</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Examiner Name</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">G.S. Philippe</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Attorney Docket Number</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">00862.022048.</td> </tr> </table>	Application Number	09/708,623	Filing Date	November 9, 2000	First Named Inventor	OSAMU ITOKAWA	Group Art Unit	2613	Examiner Name	G.S. Philippe	Attorney Docket Number	00862.022048.
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This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☒ Other Preliminary Amendment

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2. **Miscellaneous**

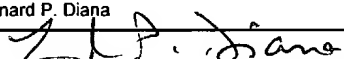
- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. **Fees**

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) 07/19/2004 SZEWDIE1 00000026 09708623
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:1801 770.00 OP
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 770.00 is enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type) Leonard P. Diana	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 29,296
Signature 	Date July 15, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print/Type)	
Signature	Date

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Director of the U.S.P.T.O., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.